

# The Carson River Mills

The Ophir mine was not only the site of the discovery of the Comstock Lode in 1859, it was also the first mine to ship ore for reduction. The Mexican mine followed soon thereafter, with both operations being forced to freight their ore over the Sierra to California where the nearest mills were located. It was not long before mine owners realized that these transportation costs would not only cut deeply into their profits, but would also preclude the shipment of low-grade ore.

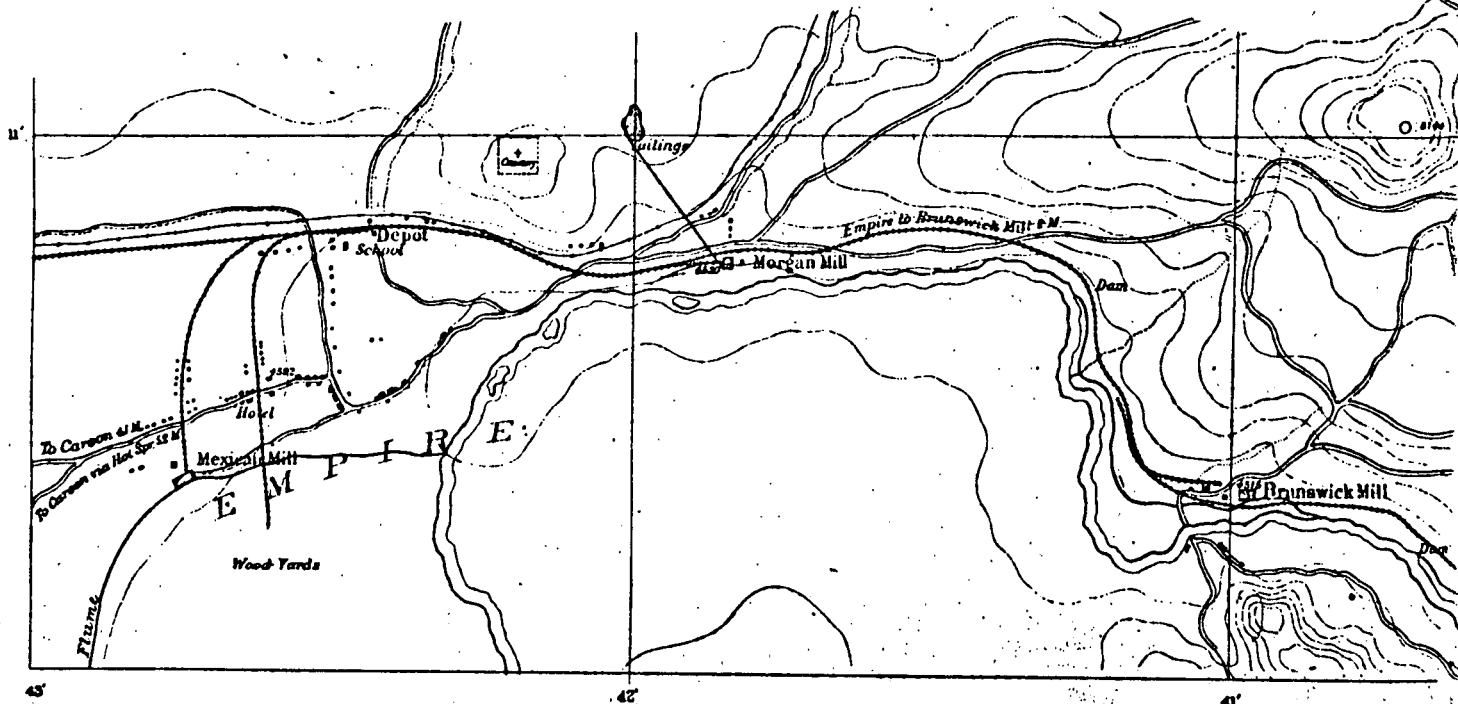
The Carson River was the nearest source of running water, a commodity necessary to power most types of quartz reduction works. The first operation of this sort on the river was a small mill built in 1860 at a site near Empire City. It was later enlarged and known as the Silver State mill. By the mid-1860's Empire City had become a prominent milling center, home to the Mexican, Mead's, and Baldwin's mills. Numerous other quartz mills were constructed downstream until the canyon from Empire to Dayton was filled with noisy reduction works, most on the north side of the Carson River.

East from Empire were the Brunswick and Blue Canyon mills, the latter renamed Copper Canyon mill then finally known as the Yerington Smelter. The Merrimac mill, built in 1861, was also located in this vicinity. It acquired its own railroad unloading facilities, known as Merrimac Siding, when the V&T RR was constructed in 1869.

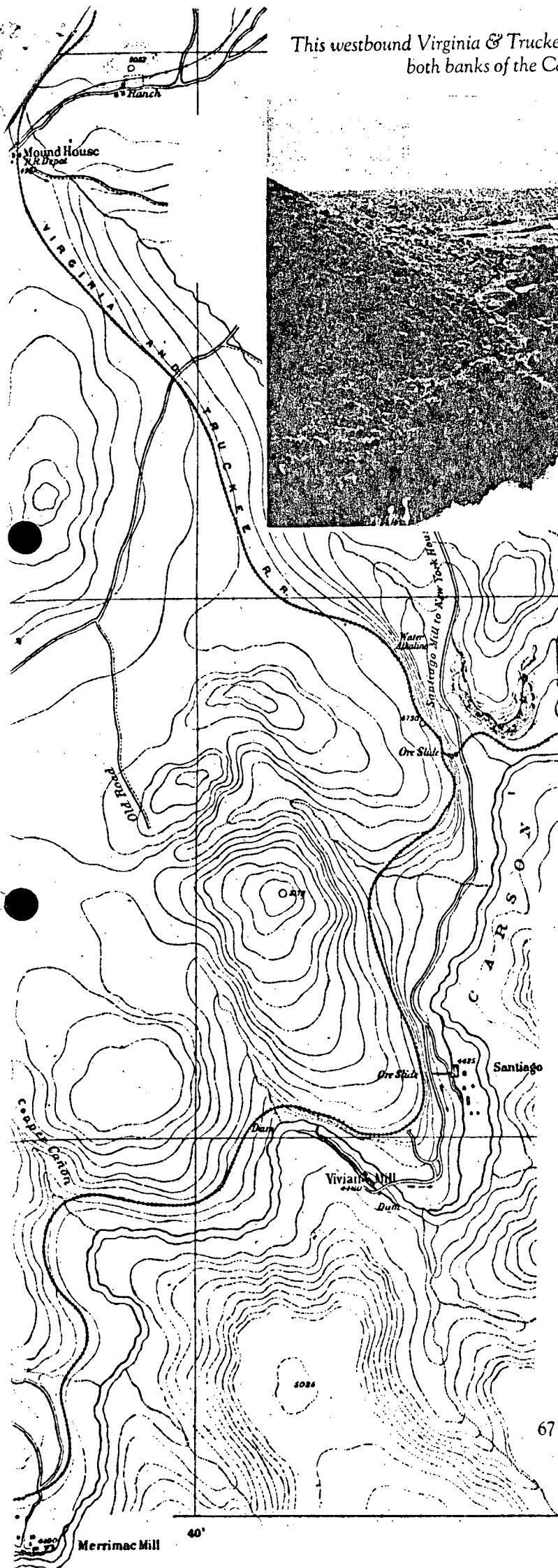
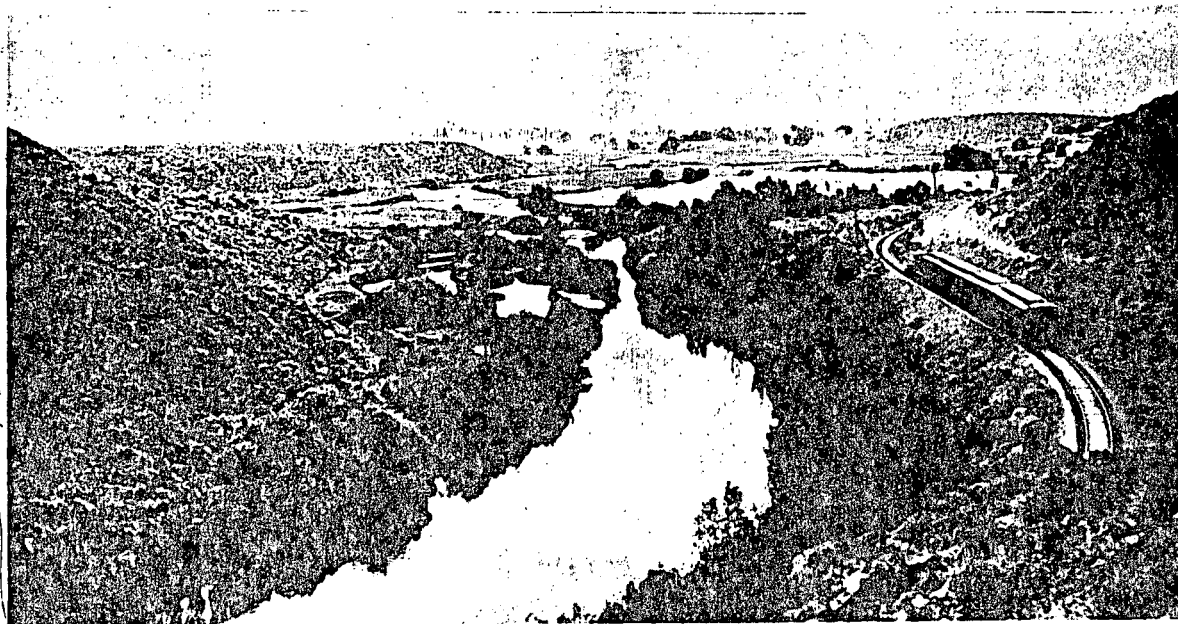
Still further east was the 16-stamp Vivian mill, built in 1862 on the river's south bank. Next was the Stewart & Hennings quartz mill, which by 1863 had been renamed the Zephyr Flat and was later called the Santiago. It was only a 12-stamp operation, but was powered by a seven-foot turbine water wheel weighing 7,000 pounds.

Further downstream was the Eureka mill, which in 1862 had 20 stamps and four arrastras. When the V&T was built nearby, a very short mining railroad was constructed to haul ore from bins along the V&T's right-of-way to the mill itself. Immediately below it was the 20-stamp San Francisco mill, while its neighbor to the east was the Franklin mill of ten stamps and two arrastras. The Baron Company's mill was situated on the south side of the river here, but it was a fairly short-lived operation which used arrastras only.

Sproul's mill was next downstream, followed by the Carson River quartz mill, later renamed the Woodworth. Five minor mills occupied the distance between the last named and Dayton, being the Aurora, Keller, Solomon & Jacobs, and Dayton mills. The Mineral Rapids mill, owned by the Imperial Mining Company, was built just outside of Dayton. It was later renamed the Rock Point mill, then the Nevada Reduction Works, remaining in use until destroyed by fire in 1909. Downstream from Dayton four additional mills worked Comstock ore. They



This westbound Virginia & Truckee RR train is approaching Empire City. From here to the Dayton area both banks of the Carson River were sites of the major mills which reduced Comstock ore.

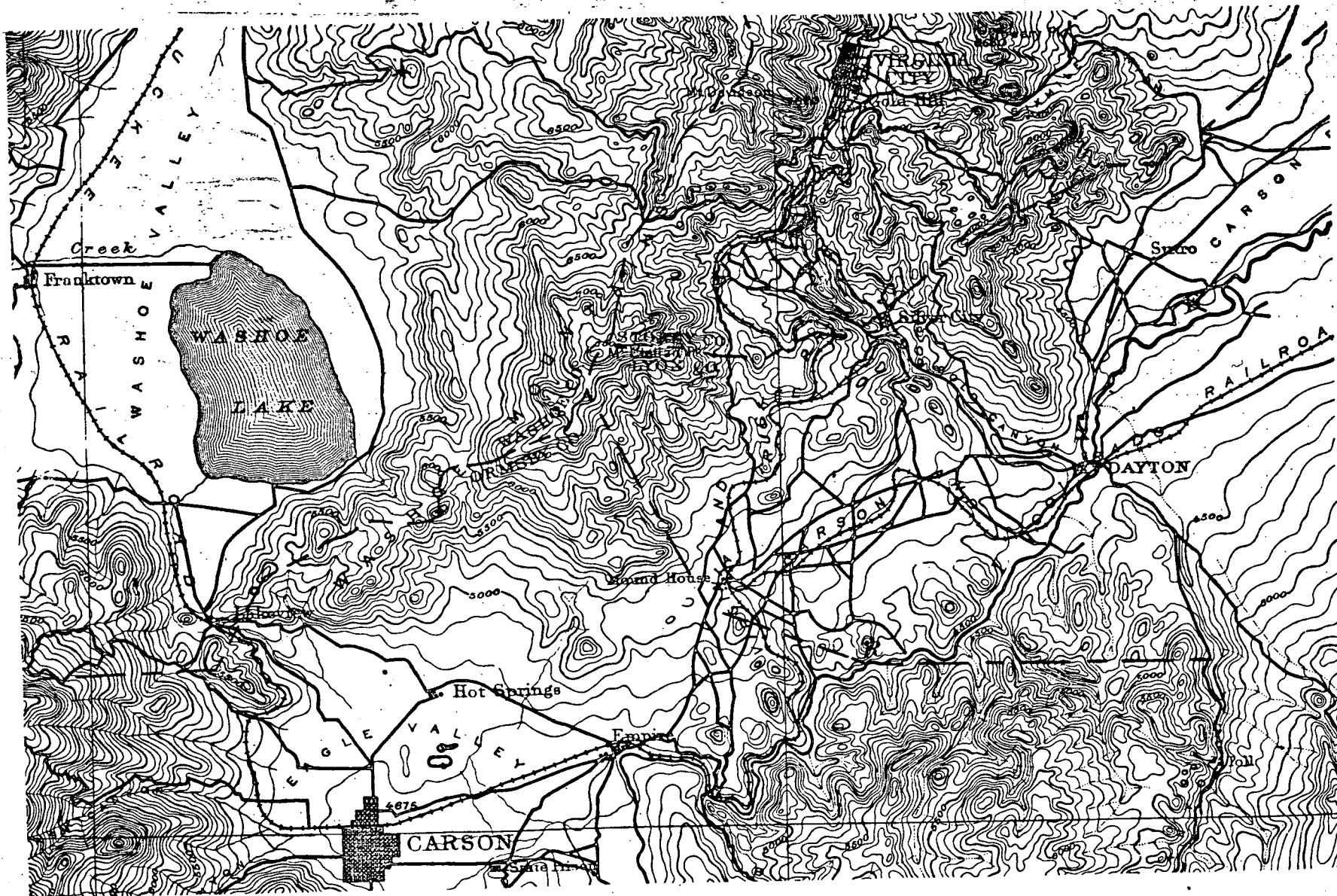


were the Freeborn & Sheldon, Gautier, Succor, and Frothingham, but none were ever the size or as important as those mills to the west.

So many mills were constructed at the very beginning of the boom that by 1862, only three years after the Comstock's discovery, there were 22 mills containing 396 stamps on the Carson River alone. Some of these operations expanded, while others went broke, but by the time the Comstock mines peaked the works along the river had become large complexes. In 1874 there were 194 stamps in operation just in five mills alone: the Mexican, Morgan, Brunswick, Merrimac, and Santiago.

As with all other mining-related business, these mills began to falter as production from the Comstock declined. Through the years the ore chutes, rails, water wheels, flumes, and even the buildings themselves were abandoned and removed. Today one can drive through the scenic Carson River canyon on the old V&T roadbed, but only a few foundations are left of what was one of Nevada's first great industrial complexes.





U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHIC MAP FOR 1893 SHOWING THE COMSTOCK REGION  
AND THE ROUTE OF THE VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE RAILROAD.

(5.) Like all Projects, Proposed By Lion construction Inc. of California, they all provide for a Pay-off Return

on the original construction, ~~cost~~ cost. (Spend money, to make money (Let's Do IT))

# Carson River Mills Project (C. R. M. P.)

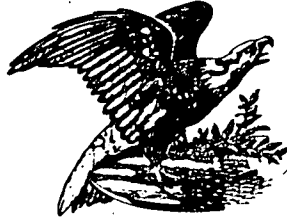
The Carson River Mills Project (C. R. M. P.) will provide an immediate answer to a very critical rising problem!

- (1.) Permanently solve the Mercury Poison Problem.
- (2.) Provide for a New Carson River Irrigation Authority.
- (3.) Provide the entire Carson Valley River land owners a gravity flow-sprinkling system.
- (4.) Provide for a Beautiful State Park.

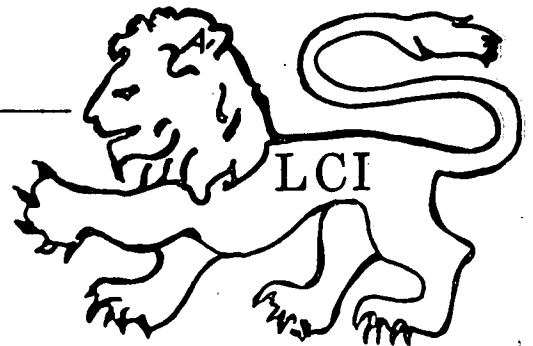
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# Lion Construction, Inc. of California

Owned & operated by The House of Israel  
which was established by God in 1960.  
"A Union Corporation"  
"Ft. Larry"  
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Yerington, Nevada 89447



LARRY BRANT SARGEANT  
PRESIDENT OF L.C.I.



(Since 1978)

Ft. Larry

3/7/91

8:00 P.M.

"To the Great People of the State of Nevada, and the United States  
of America"—

Greetings:

"Comes Now, Lion Construction Inc. of California, Proposeing, the Carson River  
Hills Project (C.R.M.P.), for the good of man and woman, and All good little boys and girls.

Where As, this project will provide an Immediate answer to an accute problem,  
that must be solved by someone, so why not let God solve it? Hes willing, So—" *L.B.S.*

"Hear now My words, since the United States Government owns 80 percent of the land  
in the State of Nevada, let them pay 80 percent of the project cost, and let the people  
of the State of Nevada, pay the remaining cost, and they shall enjoy a profit return on same  
basis, So Hearken unto the words of My Holy Ordained Prophet, Since 1962, and He will solve  
the problem and make you All rich, Thus Saith the Great Jehovah, Amen."—J."

"Confidence in God is a victorious warrior,  
But over- confidence, is a slain Army"—

*L.B.S.*

"Ask ~~Saddam~~ Hussein"

